

Premier of Ontario

D. McGuinty

MPPs

B. Delaney
V. Dhillon
P. Fonseca
L. Jeffrey
K. Kular
T. Peterson
H. Takhar
J. Tory

From:

Regional Council
and the offices of:

E. Kolb
Regional Chair

D. Szwarc
CAO

City of Brampton

Susan Fennell,
Mayor
Grant Gibson
Gael Miles
Elaine Moore
Paul Palleschi
John Sanderson
John Sprovieri

Town of Caledon

Annette Groves
Marolyn Morrison,
Mayor
Richard Paterak
Allan Thompson
Richard Whitehead

City of Mississauga

Eve Adams
George Carlson
Carmen Corbasson
Frank Dale
Nando Iannicca
Katie Mahoney
Hazel McCallion,
Mayor
Sue McFadden
Patricia Mullin
Carolyn Parrish
Maja Prentice
Pat Saito

Inclusion in a Digital Age: Peel Hosts International Day of Disabled

Through commitment and continuous improvement, the Region of Peel continues to ensure that Regional services, programs and facilities become more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

On November 9, 2006, Peel celebrated the third annual International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) by hosting its first community forum to engage people with disabilities, community members and staff in a dialogue to improve accessibility within Peel. Some highlights of this inclusive event included a coast-to-coast webcast, sign language interpreters, real-time caption and adaptive technology displays. Approximately 175 participants attended the event which took place at the Holiday Inn in the City of Brampton. Another 53 participants from across Canada joined in the discussion by webcast.

Initially established in 1992 by the United Nations, IDDP not only recognizes the many contributions that persons with disabilities make to Peel communities, but also highlights the accomplishments of the Region's Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), Regional employees and private sector partners.

"People with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as people without disabilities; however, they often encounter barriers that impede their ability to take full advantage of their rights or exercise their responsibilities. At the Region of Peel, we are committed to eliminating barriers so persons

with disabilities can continue to be actively involved in all aspects of society," said David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer.

As part of the community forum at IDDP, keynote speaker Jutta Treviranus, an international expert on adaptive technology and Director of the Adaptive Technology Research Centre at the University of Toronto, addressed technology and how electronic information and resources can be accessible to all. Event attendees also learned how to effectively communicate with and prevent, identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities.



At the IDDP event, Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist for the Region of Peel, talks to a local reporter about accessibility planning.

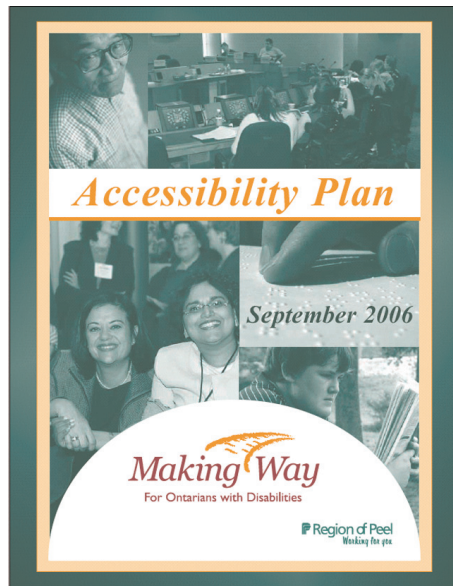
A Year of Moving Forward

The Region of Peel's AAC has come a long way since its formation four years ago. The committee is comprised of three Regional Council members and six community representatives, all of whom have a disability.

Some key accomplishments in 2006 include:

- Developed the fourth annual Region of Peel and Town of Caledon Accessibility Plans

- Conducted lunch & learn training sessions for Regional staff to enhance their accessibility knowledge and to design accessible promotional materials using Universal Design principals
- Provided expert advice to staff on improving accessibility of regional facilities and services for persons with disabilities



Peel Successes:

- First government in Canada to receive the Canada Award for Excellence (CAE) - Gold Trophy by the National Quality Institute
- Debt-free since 1997
- Triple A municipal credit rating
- Lowest water rates in the GTA
- Stable future for Peel through responsible growth management and long-range financial planning

“Persons with disabilities are diverse, talented people who are actively involved in their communities, families, hobbies and jobs and make important contributions to the development of a better Peel,” said Regional Councillor Richard Paterak, Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee.

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario, the Region of Peel is committed to developing effective strategies to improve Peel’s quality of life and providing programs and services that are accessible to all Peel residents.

For more information, please call 905-791-7800, or visit peelregion.ca

MPs

N. Bains
C. Beaumier
R. Dhalla
A. Guarnieri
W. Khan
G. Malhi
O. Alghabra
P. Szabo
D. Tilson

From:
Regional Council
and the offices of:

E. Kolb
Regional Chair

D. Szwarc
CAO

City of Brampton

Susan Fennell,
Mayor

Grant Gibson

Gael Miles

Elaine Moore

Paul Palleschi

John Sanderson

John Sprovieri

Town of Caledon

Annette Groves

Marolyn Morrison,
Mayor

Richard Paterak

Allan Thompson

Richard Whitehead

City of Mississauga

Eve Adams

George Carlson

Carmen Corbasson

Frank Dale

Nando Iannicca

Katie Mahoney

Hazel McCallion,
Mayor

Sue McFadden

Patricia Mullin

Carolyn Parrish

Maja Prentice

Pat Saito

Inclusion in a Digital Age: Peel Hosts International Day of Disabled

Through commitment and continuous improvement, the Region of Peel continues to ensure that Regional services, programs and facilities become more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

On November 9, 2006, Peel celebrated the third annual International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) by hosting its first community forum to engage people with disabilities, community members and staff in a dialogue to improve accessibility within Peel. Some highlights of this inclusive event included a coast-to-coast webcast, sign language interpreters, real-time caption and adaptive technology displays. Approximately 175 participants attended the event which took place at the Holiday Inn in the City of Brampton. Another 53 participants from across Canada joined in the discussion by webcast.

Initially established in 1992 by the United Nations, IDDP not only recognizes the many contributions that persons with disabilities make to Peel communities, but also highlights the accomplishments of the Region's Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), Regional employees and private sector partners.

"People with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as people without disabilities; however, they often encounter barriers that impede their ability to take full advantage of their rights or exercise their responsibilities. At the Region of Peel, we are committed to eliminating barriers so persons

with disabilities can continue to be actively involved in all aspects of society," said David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer.

As part of the community forum at IDDP, keynote speaker Jutta Treviranus, an international expert on adaptive technology and Director of the Adaptive Technology Research Centre at the University of Toronto, addressed technology and how electronic information and resources can be accessible to all. Event attendees also learned how to effectively communicate with and prevent, identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities.



At the IDDP event, Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist for the Region of Peel, talks to a local reporter about accessibility planning.

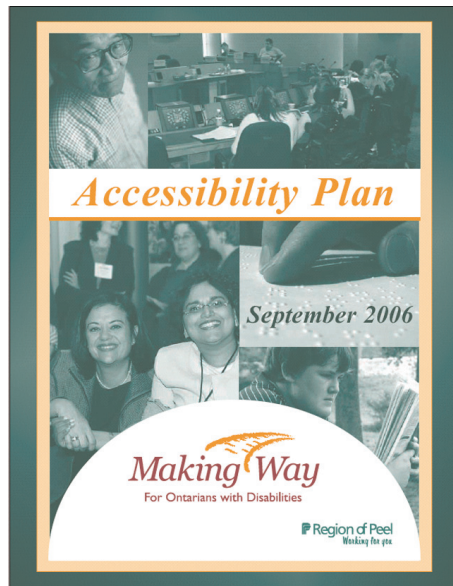
A Year of Moving Forward

The Region of Peel's AAC has come a long way since its formation four years ago. The committee is comprised of three Regional Council members and six community representatives, all of whom have a disability.

Some key accomplishments in 2006 include:

- Developed the fourth annual Region of Peel and Town of Caledon Accessibility Plans

- Conducted lunch & learn training sessions for Regional staff to enhance their accessibility knowledge and to design accessible promotional materials using Universal Design principals
- Provided expert advice to staff on improving accessibility of regional facilities and services for persons with disabilities



Peel Successes:

- First government in Canada to receive the Canada Award for Excellence (CAE) - Gold Trophy by the National Quality Institute
- Debt-free since 1997
- Triple A municipal credit rating
- Lowest water rates in the GTA
- Stable future for Peel through responsible growth management and long-range financial planning

“Persons with disabilities are diverse, talented people who are actively involved in their communities, families, hobbies and jobs and make important contributions to the development of a better Peel,” said Regional Councillor Richard Paterak, Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee.

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario, the Region of Peel is committed to developing effective strategies to improve Peel’s quality of life and providing programs and services that are accessible to all Peel residents.

For more information, please call 905-791-7800, or visit peelregion.ca.